

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian.

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Wayside Gatherings.

A Serious Complaint.

My attention has just been drawn to a very peculiar name for a very common disease: "Morbus Sabbaticus." Some of our readers may be familiar with the disease which is better known as Sunday Sickness. It is said to be a disease peculiar to church members. "The attack comes on suddenly on Sunday morning. No symptoms are felt on Saturday night. The patient slept well, awakes feeling well, and eats a hearty breakfast; but about church time the attack comes on and continues until morning service is over. At dinner time the patient feels easier and makes a good meal. In the afternoon he is so much better, he can walk, talk, or read his newspaper. Tea is taken with a relish, but another attack comes on at the time for evening service, and he stays at home, retires early to rest, sleeps soundly, and wakes up next morning as sound as can be. No further symptoms appear until the following Sunday. The chief peculiarities of this complaint are: Never appears except on Sundays. Symptoms vary, but never affect sleep, meals, or pleasure; generally attacks the heads of the families, no physician is ever called in.

A Beautiful Epitaph.

Here is a story of a lady who did not suffer from the above complaint; it is said that she was a tireless worker in all good causes, and when she died her friends subscribed toward the erection of a tombstone over her grave, and had carved on it, by way of epitaph, just these words: "This is the only stone she ever left unturned."

An American's Dietum.

"Many a man has lost his religion by studying the Bible with a map in one hand and a calendar in the other."

B'longing to Dr. Dale.

The Rev. Harold Rylett is contributing to "The Inquirer" some reminiscences of "Men I have met," and tells a story he heard from Dr. Dale. Charles Vince, the famous Baptist minister at Birmingham, was going home one night after closing hours and found a man sitting on the pavement with his back against a lamp-post. In the spirit of the good samaritan Vince attempted to lift the man to his feet, when the poor fellow hiccupped: "Don't you trouble Mr. Vince, I don't b'long to you; I b'long to Dr. Dale."

The Universality of Christian Truth.

"Jesus said, 'Love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you' Go to him and say, 'But Master, Gautama Buddha centuries before You came said: overcome anger by love; overcome evil by good. Hatred is never ended by hatred, but by love; this is an old rule.' Can you imagine Jesus being anything but thankful? He would be glad and grateful that the truth which he so luminously saw had been glimpsed elsewhere. Would Copernicus and Galileo, having so revealed a universal truth, be jealous because centuries before, the Greeks had begun to guess it? Would they not welcome confirmation that they were dealing with a universal truth, which had broken through in other places too? Let that be our attitude also. More and more as we understand the religions of other people we shall find light there. Do not be dismayed; be encouraged. It is a confirmation of the Universality of the Truth of Christ."—Dr. Emerson Fosdick. A. W.

Notes of the Month.

Ministerial Resignation.

The resignation of the Rev. H. J. Rossington of the Ministerial charge of the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast, is an event of importance and one that cannot fail to interest our readers. After twenty years of faithful and devoted service to the cause of liberal religion in Belfast he has accepted a call to the Church of the Messiah, Birmingham. It will be readily recognised that Mr. Rossington during the long period of twenty years has faithfully served the church to which we are all attached, and has upheld the dignity of the Non-Subscribing position not merely with acceptance, but with a sustained effort and ability worthy of admiration.

During his ministry he has not only served his own particular church with fidelity, but has fulfilled important functions in connection with our Non-Subscribing Church generally. These services our readers will have no difficulty in recalling to their minds. In this respect his departure will be a loss to our whole community. It must not be forgotten that, after the resignation of the Rev. Alfred Turner, who conducted this Magazine from its inception for many years, Mr. Rossington undertook the responsibility of the Editorship with conspicuous success and general acceptance. We understand that his resignation takes effect about the end of June. He will take with him the respect and esteem of his own church members, but also quite as truly the regard and good wishes of numerous friends who have learnt to respect and honour him. His ministerial friends will greatly miss him from their fellowship, for they always found him a helpful brother. His friends in the North of Ireland will wish him, Mrs. Rossington and family every happiness and prosperity in their new sphere.

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Heresy.

The April Number of All Souls' Calendar contains the following paragraphs which will be of interest to a wider circle of readers :

The Heresy Trial.

While the case was *SUB JUDICE* we refrained from commenting freely on the subject, but now that the trial has ended with a verdict of "Not Guilty" we may venture to make a few remarks from a Liberal Christian point of view.

It is safe to say that any other verdict would have earned the Belfast Presbytery Court a most unenviable reputation and would have seriously damaged its prestige.

From our point of view the most interesting feature of the trial is not so much the verdict as the large majorities by which Professor Davy was acquitted on all five charges. We regard this as yet one more indication that the spirit of religious tolerance is abroad and making its presence felt in the high places of officialdom.

Is it too much to hope that the small minority who worked for a conviction will one day realise that "God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform," and that he does not always work to the theological plans drawn up by man?

We wonder if the heresy hunters fully realise the enormous debt they owe to heretics, to the heretic Isaiah who scorned the religious views of his contemporaries, to the heretic Jesus who would not conform to Judaism, to the heretic Luther who had the courage to defy Rome, and to a thousand other "heretics" who have turned the stagnant pool of dogmatism into the "living water" of true religion.

To attempt to prevent the freedom of religious thought by the bondage of dogmatic expression is futile, as Ecclesiastical History shows. It is like trying to dam Niagara with a fiddle-stick.

Therefore, while we are pleased at the verdict and still more pleased at the large majorities by which Professor Davy has been acquitted, we are still wondering how it comes about that in these days of spiritual, moral and intellectual enlightenment such a charge should be brought.

We await with more than usual interest the result of the appeal against the verdict.

Ulster Unitarian Christian Association.

The Annual Sermons on behalf of the Association were preached in the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast, on Sunday April 10th, by the Rev. Lawrence Redfern, M.A., B.D., of Liverpool. Mr. Redfern chose for his subject at the morning service: "Liberal Christianity and the Challenge of a Chaotic World." The pilgrimage through life, he said, was beset with dangers and difficulties splendidly hard. It was hard to believe, it was hard to form convictions, it was hard to do the right thing.

The principles upon which the Christian faith was founded were very few in number, but when we tried to apply those principles to public and private morality how hard it was. When we turned from mere phrase making to the reality of things how difficult and how baffling the problems were. The great hope of a finer and purer religion for the world was the feeling that had come that the chaos and imperfections of the world were a challenge to the creative spirit in the mind and heart of every man and in the mind and heart of the great community. Over the chaos that surrounds us there must be a brooding spirit, and on the way through the wilderness we must see the light that shines from the far end. If we could do that, whilst the difficulties and dangers would be none the less, our doubts and fears would be dissolved by the spirit of dedication. However much one might smile at the details of the old story of the Creation, there was one fact lying behind the details that was tremendously impressive. It was found in the words "In the beginning God." Then there was the fact that the Creation was not a creation out of nothing. There was something there at the beginning, but it was confused, disorderly, and inharmonious; there was a spirit brooding over those vast, windy spaces which was gradually reducing things into ordered form until creation came out of chaos. That, he thought, was true of every generation that comes into the world. It was challenged with the task of creating, or making creation out of chaos by the brooding of a spirit. We were always at a beginning; nothing was ever finished. What we were doing now was only in a sense the raw material out of which those who come after us would have to create something not only finer than we had made, but something finer and more beautiful than we had dreamed of. So that the eternal creation out of chaos goes on from generation to generation. There was gladness and joy in creating something, the joy of the artist, the joy of feeling that here was a little bit of raw material out of which we had to create something fine and enduring, the eternal joy of bringing form out of formlessness, order out of disorder, creation out of chaos. A chaos was a wonderful opportunity. It was a beneficent thing that life moved on from stage to stage, but there was this difference between life and institutions: that institutions never grow old unless we age them by our own indifference, careless-

ness or disloyalty. It was sometimes said that Christianity was growing old; if it were it was because we have aged it. What gave Christianity its power in the great ages of the faith, in the martyr age, for example, was the fact that men felt the challenge of chaos to their creative spirit, and if Christianity were to remain young as a movement, as an institution, we must feel that same challenge. It would have been a fine thing to act with Timothy as a messenger for St. Paul—to cross the Atlantic with Bradford, or to help to rouse the conscience of England with Wesley and Whitfield, but our own age was no less rich in opportunities than any age that had passed. At the evening service Mr. Redfern gave an eloquent discourse on "Liberal Christianity and the Revolt against Old Conventions."

Annual Meeting.

This took place the following evening in the Central Hall. The proceedings having been opened with a hymn and prayer by the Moderator (Rev. Edgar Lockett), Mr. R. M. Laird took the chair, and extended a hearty welcome to Mr. Redfern, whom he described as one of our most distinguished preachers. In his introductory remarks he emphasised the fact that "Our Association is sometimes spoken of as the Ulster Unitarian Association. This is not our correct name. The full title is the Ulster Unitarian Christian Association." We of this Association yield to no one in our great love for our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. We accept him as our Saviour, not exactly with the same emphasis as our Orthodox friends, who put all their trust on what they call the finished work of the Cross. We accept Jesus for what he was, for His pure and spotless life and His supreme example. His message was not merely for his own day and generation, but for all time. When in doubt in our business transactions, or in our daily walk through life, it would be well, if having the Christ Spirit in us, we would ask ourselves the question, "What would Jesus have us do?" The answer we would give would be the right one. Mr. Laird said that he believed "the power of Jesus as a social reformer is growing. He is the final court of appeal, and, as such, the ultimate ruler of the civilised world to-day. The world has not yet even approached within measureable distance of the Christ standard, and is only just beginning to get faint glimpses of the significance of Jesus' message. His mission will be gradually revealed as men

prepare themselves more and more to grasp the meaning of his good news to men," Mr. Laird disclaimed any sympathy with nice questions of arid criticism and urged the necessity of infusing greater energy into pressing questions of social amelioration. He deplored the evils of gambling and the misery, degradation and poverty brought about by indulgence in strong drink. By advocating better housing for the people we would all do more to bring about, what we all pray for, the Kingdom of God and His Christ on the Earth.

The Committee's report, recording another year of useful service in the cause of promoting the principles of Unitarian Christianity, was submitted by the Hon. Secretary, and the Rev. G. J. Slipper Hon. Treasurer, presented the Financial Statement, showing a small credit balance. The report and statement of accounts were adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Rev. P. Godding. Mr. Harold Thomas moved and Mrs. Blanche Hume seconded a vote of thanks to Mr. Redfern for his sermons on behalf of the Association. This was passed with enthusiasm.

After acknowledging this, Mr. Redfern proceeded to speak on "The Prospects of a Liberal Religion," giving an inspiring address, to which it is impossible to do justice in the limited space at our disposal.

The resolution expressing adherence to the principles of the Association was passed on the motion of the Rev. D. J. Williams, seconded by Rev. W. G. Marsden. The election of the Committee was then proceeded with, the following being elected:—Revs. J. Kennedy, P. Godding, J. A. Kelly, M. Watkins, and A. Whitford; Mrs. J. G. Davies, Mrs. E. R. Jackson, Miss M'Caw; Messrs. G. J. Hill, V. Jennings, Henry J. F. Orr, Harold Thomas, and R. M. Laird; Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. M'Kisack; Hon. Treasurer, Rev. G. J. Slipper.

Rev. A. L. Agnew proposed, and Mr. W. M'Robert, seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman and to the ladies who had dispensed tea prior to the meeting. The proceedings concluded with the singing of a hymn and the pronouncement of the Benediction.

PRAYER OF THE AFRICAN NANDI TRIBES

God! give us health.
 God! give us milk.
 God! give us power.
 God! give us the elusive grain
 God! give us everything good.
 God! guard our children and cattle.

The Australian Bush.

A short while ago I was in Port Stephens, and had a walk one Sunday, fourteen miles through virgin bush, and I was amazed at the natural beauty which I saw—Kangaroos and wallabies, foxes, snakes, and lizards, and countless varieties of birds, besides flowers and trees of appearance which defies description. It was a wet spell, too, and everything was fresh and green. There were ants everywhere. If a country was blessed, or rather cursed, with an insect, it is Australia with ants. There are many different kinds, from little black ones about a quarter of an inch long, which commit suicide by the hundred in household groceries, to big strapping fellows of an inch and a half, called soldier ants. These last throw up ant-hills sometimes on the bare granite,—they must be able to chew it up, and the people take the ant-hills and lay down tennis-courts with them. When that particular ant fixes you with his teeth, you would swear that a bull-dog had hold of you. There are bull-dog ants too, and they do everything but bark. I've never heard of anyone chaining one up for a watch-dog, but they're almost big enough for that. Although I have been several years now up and down the coast, I had never seen so much of the bush as I did that day.

ERIC BARRON.

At sea, 6/3/27.

The Principal of Birmingham University in a "Wireless" Lecture, on April 6th, on "David Livingstone," stated, that after Livingstone had spent years exploring Africa, where white man had never ventured before, on his return to London, because of his simple creed "To do the will of God," which had sustained him in all his perils, "slobbering sentimentalists" on the London Missionary Society, actually wanted to challenge his orthodoxy.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters and Manuscripts for the Editor should be sent to the Manse, Killinchy Co. Down, not later than the 15th of each month. The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents. No letter can be inserted without the name and address of the sender.

Some Impressions of Holland.

BY MISS MARY O'NEILL.

(Read at Ballyclare Guild in February).

Those whose first sight of Holland is "The Hook of Holland" from the deck of a steam-packet on a bitterly cold morning in February, are not very favourably impressed, and as this was my experience, I did not look forward to my stay there with much hope of enjoyment. However, first impressions are not always to be relied on, and in my 12 years almost continuance residence in Holland, my unfavourable impression was never repeated. The journey from "The Hook" to Utrecht was full of interest and new experiences. I discovered that Dutch customs officials were extremely helpful and courteous. As I did not know half-a-dozen words of Dutch, I should have had some difficulty in making myself understood, but I soon found that most of the officials and porters understood and spoke some English. When I got seated in a corner of the compartment and the train had left the Hook, a guard came to me with a receipt for one florin or one shilling and eightpence English money, which it seemed I had to pay. I showed him my ticket to Utrecht, but he politely explained that this was a special train and I must pay extra for getting a seat! I found afterwards that this extra payment is demanded on many of the faster trains, especially those in connection with English steamers. To counter-balance this, a waiter came and asked me would I have breakfast, or a cup of tea or coffee. I decided on the last and a few minutes later he brought what seemed to me then the most delicious coffee I had ever tasted. That impression of Dutch coffee has only been strengthened since. After arriving in Utrecht I had a drive of 5 or 6 miles to reach my destination the village of Zeist, which name I have never yet been able to pronounce correctly, nor have I heard any English person get it absolutely right. Incidentally I must say that I have always found Dutch folk very patient and helpful when one is trying to learn their language. They never laugh—at least openly—at one's mistakes. The road to Zeist is full of twists and turns, sometimes almost doubling on itself and *was* bordered almost the whole distance with the most wonderful old trees. I say *was*, as the best of these were cut down in war-time, 1915—to clear a way for the

guns in case the Dutch should be drawn into the war. It was a great grief to the Dutch, who are very proud and justly so, of their beautiful old trees, to see these and many others sacrificed. About half-way between Zeist and Utrecht one passes through the little village of "de Bilt," which contains a very fine observatory. Between this and Zeist are many lovely country-houses, notably one—"Ma Retraite" built of pure white stone—an exact copy of an Italian villa. Close to the village is a large area given up to experimental gardening. Indeed these gardens or "Proef Tuins," as they are called in Dutch are common over Holland. Zeist itself is a very clean prosperous village, larger than many of our country towns. It contains an old-established settlement of Moravians or "Hernhutters" as the Dutch call them, which forms quite a village of itself. The buildings which comprise dwelling-houses, shops, workshops, schools and Church occupy each side of a long Avenue, and take the form of two hollow squares, called Bruder plein and Tuster plein, or Brother and Sister-Square respectively. The schools are especially good and are open to all children who wish to attend. In dress and customs they are somewhat like our own Quakers. The girls are taught every branch of housewifery before taking up whatever career they wish, and the boys similarly are taught a trade.

Just outside the squares is the cemetery, containing hundreds of little square headstones, all alike and neatly arranged in rows. Zeist boasts of a Castle, which is built round three sides of a square, which sides are surrounded by water. In winter it is very dull and solid-looking, but in spring and summer is completely transformed with flowers and the glorious big trees in the background. The shops in Zeist are good, among them being several very fine flower shops. Indeed in almost the tiniest village in Holland one of the shops is sure to be for sale of bulbs and flowers. Although a village Zeist possesses a very fine public park and quite a number of hotels.

Its canals though not very large, are in constant use for conveying, by means of barges, coals, timber, etc., etc. In the canals all through Holland the water is kept changing by a system of pumping by wind-mills. In several streets in Zeist as in many other Dutch towns in which the houses are separated from the road by a canal, each house has a small white arched wooden

bridge connecting it to the road, and very quaint these look. Most of the milk and vegetables, etc., was brought to the villages in carts drawn by two or even three dogs; this seemed to me at first very cruel, but I was repeatedly assured that these dogs really enjoyed the work and were very well treated. The houses in Zeist, with very rare exceptions were spotlessly clean, inside and out. Indeed it is quite a common sight to see the outside walls and even pavements being scrubbed with soap and water. The older farm houses consist of one main building, the roof either thatched or tiled, sloping very steeply from the ridge tiles to within a few feet of the ground, the small ground floor windows, when there are any, being almost covered by thatch, while in the gable there are sometimes five rows of windows. The house is generally divided so that the family live in one end and the other is given up to the animals, cows, horses, etc. The farm-kitchen is a very roomy comfortable place, having either the wide open hearth and projecting chimney-piece so characteristic of most Dutch houses, or a cylindrical stove setting well into the room. On one or two of the walls are fitted beds or bunks, having either doors like a cupboard or pretty curtains. Opening from the kitchen is the cheese room and from this the byre. It is very rare to see anything but black or black-white cows in Holland.

[To be Continued].

Temperance Notes.

Prohibition in the States.

You are all aware of the keen controversy that has been steadily maintained between the supporters and opponents of the Volstead Act of 1919. And that controversy has not been confined to the United States. A very wordy warfare has been carried on, as strenuously and persistently in Great Britain; statistics are given designed to show either the folly or futility or excellency of the law; letters to Editors, articles and Reviews appear daily. Visitors to that great country come back, most of them with the conviction in which they set out strengthened and deepened. For as the eye only sees what it brings with it the capacity to see, so in matters of opinion we all, as a rule, find confirmation of our preconceived notions from the most unlikely

material. We find what we "went out for to see." Some come back and tell us that the United States is now the ideal country—crime is unknown, and drunkenness a thing of the past—there is no such thing as poverty and everybody is content. And others come home saying that it is as it was before the Volstead Act was passed, or if any change, then a change for the worse. Bombarded with such contradictory reports many are utterly bewildered. But why be surprised even, least of all bewildered? It is not so long ago we used to laugh at Americans who visited our shores and after "doing" the places—in a week or two—gave to the world about out affairs. We remember,—was it a year ago?—a number of ministers were sent to that vast country to study the workings of the Act (also to collect money to help as in our Temperance work here). They appeared on our platforms and gave us glorious accounts of the benefits and blessings of the Act, and of the determination of all to enforce it. Think of it! In a month or two—most of the time necessarily spent in travelling—being able to grasp all the conditions of a most complicated problem, sum up the varying human factors and to arrive at such definite, certain conclusions. It cannot be done. America is too big—and with a heterogeneous population. We know that some do not profess to attempt this impossibility. Yet if they have the courage to report to the press their experience, and give their studied views thereon, which must necessarily be guarded and undecided, they run a great risk of being called severely to task. It appears you must come back from the New World either as an ardent Prohibitionist, or decidedly against.

Total Abstainer by Law.

It is our personal conviction that a people cannot be made sober by an Act of Parliament (or Congress). And I do not believe they are lying, even if some are exaggerating, who tell us (we are not thinking of "visitors" now, but those who have spent the greater part of their lives in the United States), who tell us a sad story. The testimony of many of these is that the Volstead Act is corrupting the country. A very large section of the people were conniving at the breaking and outwitting of the law. And so far from liquor being unobtainable it could be had—of every sort—almost anywhere, or everywhere.

Many grown-up people felt that they were being treated as children; as incapable of guiding their own lives and they resented it; another resentment took the form of doing what the law said they should not and could not do.

The "New York Times."

American papers may be a byword to us—and undoubtedly many deserve our contempt—but the "New York Times" is a journal with a reputation to maintain, and we often peruse it with serious interest. In a recent number (6th February) there were two articles which must give pause to those who would rush to conclusions—especially ourselves who feel that Prohibition is an ideal that one day must be realised. One is the report by Dr. Chas. Norris, Chief Medical Examiner of the City of New York, for which the Mayor asked. Most of the report is very technical, but the following extract can be understood by us all:—

"In 1922 there was a marked increase in the number of cases of alcoholism and there has been a steady increase since."

From this report we find that the number of deaths from acute and chronic alcoholism alone, excluding deaths where alcohol merely played a part, increased from 621 in 1910, to 741 in 1926. If any correspondent desires we will quote more in our next issue—space limits us just now—but he goes on to express the "opinion, based on actual experience of the medical examiners' Staff and myself is that there is actually no prohibition." Furthermore he reports that actually more spirit is sold to-day—and this of a highly dangerous sort.

The other article was from a speech by Governor Ritchie of Maryland.

"Either the Volstead Act must be changed or it must be enforced, I am convinced that it cannot be enforced, we have spent nearly £50,000,000 dollars trying to enforce it, and have sacrificed nearly 4,000,000,000 dollars in taxes while the effort has been made and our last state is worst than the first."

We must not, we cannot, ignore either facts, or even view points of those who dwell in the land. In the end they must tell, whereas biased impressions of visitors are a dangerous foundation upon which to build arguments to present to intelligent and sincere citizens. A man of science seeks facts to oppose his own theories—

they are the most valuable to him. Let us be fair, even if those whose interests are in the Trade, apparently cannot be.

P. G.

Annual Entertainment—Unity Guild.

The Annual Entertainment in connection with the Unity Guild Dramatic Section, was held in Rosemary Hall, on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 8th and 9th, in aid of the Sustentation Fund. Instead of the usual operetta, three one-act plays were presented. The attendance, especially on the second night was very good.

The first play was produced by Mrs. E. R. Jackson, by kind permission of the authoress, Miss Eleanor Renard, a Cousin of Mr. E. R. Jackson. This charming Fantasy was enhanced by the acting of the principals and the delightful dances arranged by Miss Phyllis James and the pupils of Miss Haines and Miss Mercer, and was one of the prettiest plays we had ever seen.

Pierrot (Miss A. Newman) had set up a shop to sell dreams (although he never took money for them), and an enchanted Moon-calf (Jim Henderson) helped to keep the place clean and was "second hand." We saw various dreams given away but also learnt that they went bad sometimes, as when Miss Alison Kennedy presented one—although her dance was too attractive to frighten us. The Fairy Godmother (Miss D. Young), wanted some garden dreams (Misses E. Henderson, M. Armstrong, J. and P. Newman, E. Rooney, Helen M'Roberts) who danced very charmingly. Then came a poor girl (Miss N. Hay), who wanted a penny dream about a dollie, and she got a delightful doll in Miss Agnes M'Murray, that danced when wound up. A Coster girl (Miss A. Millar), wanted a dream about a Prince, and in comes a Coster Prince (Miss R. Bennett), and they dance together. The coster girl's employer (Miss A. Montgomery) comes to take her back to work, but she has a dream (Miss Pat. Henderson), and forgets her coster girl servant. Then the Landlord (Mr. J. Henderson) comes for the rent but his wants are appeased by the appearance of a dream baby (Miss S. Stevenson). Pierrot has no dreams since Pierrette (Miss B. Newman) left him, but she returns and they both have dreams of the country (Misses B. Graham, L. Corry,

A. M'Murray, B. Noble, M. Watson, M. Price and Helen and John M'Roberts).

Miss Anne Newman played the part of Pierrot throughout the play in a convincing manner, while what we saw of Pierrette made us wish for more. It is invidious to single out any of the dances for special praise but the pretty flower dresses of the Garden Dreams, the grotesqueness of the Bad Dream, the spirited dancing of the Costers, the characteristic poses of the Doll, the dainty old world charm of the Dream child in her gavotte and the suggestion of Spring in the pink clad nymphs, with their sprigs of almond blossom coupled with the effective lighting left an indelible impression on everyone's mind.

The second play was "Our at Home Day," produced by Mr. Norman Woolley. A family had come into a new district and the daughter Henrietta (Miss Joan Logan) decided to have an "At Home." Her mother (Miss Laura Bracken) was not used to such high life, and as her daughter reminded her must pronounce her "H's." They have some difficulty in persuading the maid (Miss May Daniel) to go and change her dress, and this is made worse by constant rings at the bell. Of course, the family decide each is a visitor, but the maid always rushes in with the tale of some hawker. Five o'clock passes and all are heartbroken at the non-arrival of the visitors, and mother decides on no more "At Homes." The play went with a rare swing and the maid kept everyone in roars of laughter.

The last play "Evening Dress Indispensable," was produced by the Rev. S. P. Whitehouse. Mr. Coffey May who was to have taken the part of George Connaught had to retire on the previous Thursday owing to illness, and his part was taken in an excellent manner by Mr. A. E. Nadyne. The trouble was that Sheila Waybury (Miss Aileen Miller) had developed "a Russian Soul." She painted pictures that looked like "An explosion in an umbrella factory," and made horrid discords on the piano. Her widowed mother (Miss Lewis) had to make herself unattractive in order to give Sheila a chance to get married. The maid (Miss A. Montgomery) announces a visitor, George Connaught (Mr. A. E. Nadyne), an old friend, who advises Sheila on the proper mode of life and condemns Mrs. Waybury for dressing so dowdily. Geoffrey Chandler (Rev. S. P. Whitehouse) arrives

("one of the old faithful," says Connaught) to take Sheila to a dance, but she will not have anything to do with such foolery. Mrs. Waybury then announces her intention of accompanying Chandler and causes some consternation when she comes back changed and looking twenty years younger. Connaught who hoped to spend the evening with Mrs. Maybury does not like the idea, then Sheila arrived in a new frock and then it appears she has lost her "Russian Soul" for she goes off with Chandler and Connaught and Miss Waybury go off together and all ends well.

The play was exceptionally well acted, Miss Gladys Lewis gave a finished performance and showed that with careless neglect, charming people can look dowdy and was a convincing example of the power of dress. Miss Aileen Miller, always a finished performer, was a horrid example of the hideousness of the horn-rimmed glass type, and her change into a pretty dance frock was very complete.

Mr. Whitehouse acted the impressionable youth extremely well, while Mr. Nadyne showed evidence of past experience in his maturer presentation of an older man and is to be heartily congratulated on his mastery of his part in so short a time.

Reports.

Belfast First Presbyterian Church.—At a General Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, 10th April, Mr. T. H. M'Murray, in the Chair, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That we the members of the First Presbyterian Church Belfast, have received with sincere regret the resignation of the Rev. H. J. Rossington, on his acceptance of the Pulpit of the Church of the Messiah, Birmingham. We accept with great reluctance his resignation and desire to express our high appreciation of the strenuous and devoted work he has done for our Church and cause in Belfast and the North of Ireland. We pray that his future may be blessed with further good results for our cause in his new sphere of labour."

Banbridge. There are two or three very interesting events to report. First was our very successful Annual Sunday Scholars Party. It was one of the jolliest and best attended in recent years. The tea, dispensed, with usual kind services by the

lady friends of the congregation, was of the usual generous and appreciated kind. We had two delightfully rendered songs from Miss Helen Stevenson; we had the distribution of a hundred "things" (toys and other gifts) in a novel and quick fashion to a hundred delighted and amused recipients; we had a farce; and we had the distribution of prizes. It was an exceptionally crowded programme with not a dull moment. We thought the farce one of the best we had ever had acted—and acted well. Matrimonial Agency was its title, and the mixing together of the varying (and various) clients was farcical in the extreme. The parts were taken by the Misses Sadie and May M'Keown, Jenny Cand, Georgina and Eilene Stevenson and Messrs. James M'Keown, Wm. Jas. Radcliffe, and Victor Bryans. They were all wonderful and entered into the tragedy and comedy of the thing. It seemed a shame to give it just once. It was thoroughly appreciated by all. Then the prizes. These were, for once presented by the minister, who could not refrain from a gentle sermon on the subject of making special efforts to come out on Sundays, as such splendid efforts were made not to miss these great occasions of parties. He referred to the higher average of attendance at the Sunday School and named the scholars who deserved special mention. These were Emma Wilson, who had a full attendance although living farthest from the church, Bertie Martin and Jack Lyons, who only failed to attend one Sunday, and Gordon Martin, Russel Martin and Stewart Wilson, who missed only two Sundays. Then also there was a good attendance reported of the Bible Class members. Alex. Wilson had full attendance, and Richard and Stanley O'Neill missed just one and two attendances respectively. The prizes themselves were exceptionally good this year. The pronouncing of the Benediction brought a very happy evening to an end about 11 p.m.

Then there was a very interesting event which took place in the Session Room of the Church on a week-day evening. Special gifts for the several members of our excellent choir, and our talented organist. The minister referred to the much appreciated renderings of the choir at all the services, of the great sympathy that held always the choir and organist together, and of the numerous and kindly expressions given by the Congregation of their appreci-

ation of the splendid leading given to the Congregational singing.

Mrs. Glass very kindly presented the prizes. She did this kindly office as only Mrs Glass could, with grace and charm and with delightful little speeches to each recipient. The gifts were of exceptional merit, and showed great taste on the part of choristers, for they were previously asked to name the kind of gift they preferred. Mr James M'Keown, on behalf of organist and choir, expressed thanks and appreciation of the Church's kindness, though, said he, "It gives us all pleasure to do what we can to help the services, and we feel that what we do, is very little after all."

Mrs. Bell and Miss Frazer were responsible for the organising, dispensing a very refreshing tea and cakes, the cakes being provided by the ladies.

We must not let another month go by without reporting the formation of a very successful, and we trust helpful, Boys' Club. Mr. Victor Bryans was the prime mover in its establishment, and night after night he is ably assisted by our worthy church Secretary, Mr. Wm. James Radcliffe. This club has come to stay, and has already 24 members, meeting two nights a week.

Comber Branch of the Women's Unitarian League.

The branch consist of 63 members.

The meetings were held monthly.

The opening service was conducted by Mrs. Eustace Thompson, of Cairncastle.

Miss Armstrong gave a splendid description of a trip to Canada.

Miss Eileen Andrews gave us a very inspiring address, quoting passages from various poets.

Two Social Meetings were held, one taking the form of a united party of members of neighbouring branches of the Leagues.

Work parties were conducted by Mrs. Davies and Miss Munn, for the benefit of the Gift Sale which was held in aid of the Distressed Ministers and Widows' Fund.

As a result of the sale £20 was sent to the Fund, £3 to the Mission and £1 to help to clear the debt on the NON-SUB. MAGAZINE.

A parcel was also sent to Mountpottinger Branch Sale of Work and one to Manchester Bazaar.

A visit was paid to 1st Church, Belfast on All Hallow's Eve, when a highly delightful party took place.

A letter was received from the 1st Church Branch asking for representatives to be sent to a meeting called to discuss more united and effective work for a district league.

Varied suggestions were made, but nothing so far has materialized.

The delegates from Comber branch were Miss Andrews, Mrs. Minis, Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Milling.

Owing to illness Mrs. Davies was unable to attend the Meetings in Belfast.

It was decided to end the season in March.

A visit to Larne branch is to take place in the Summer when it is hoped a United Service will be held.

The officers for the year are :—President, Mrs. Glynn Davies ; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Robert Milling ; Hon. Treasurer, Miss Hind, Ardara, Comber.

Comber.—The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held on Tuesday, 12th April, when the Right Hon. John M. Andrews, D.L., M.P., presided. The Secretary's report was submitted by Mr. J. F. Orr, Solicitor, while the Treasurer's statement of accounts, was read by Mr. James Simpson. The Incidental Fund account was read by Mr. Abernethy and Mr. A. Orr, submitted the report of the choir fund. These were passed on the motion of the Chairman and seconded by Mr. W. Pinnance. Mr. J. Niblock proposed and Mr. Munro Ferguson seconded, the re-appointment of office-bearers. The organist and choir were thanked for their services on the motion of Miss E. L. Andrews, seconded by Mr. John Montgomery. Mr. W. Munn proposed a vote of thanks to the Sunday School Teachers, Mr. H. Adams seconded. The Right Hon. Lord Justice Andrews in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Davies, paid a high tribute to their services. He did not know which was the more highly appreciated—the services of Mr. Davies in the pulpit or his visits to their homes, especially in times of sickness. Mr. D. Munn, J.P., seconded the motion and paid generous tributes to the good work done by the minister and his wife.

Rev. J. G. Davies in his reply thanked the officers and Committee of the church—the choir and Sunday School Teachers for their splendid help and loyalty. He thanked them for the kindness that had been shown him in various ways during

the year. He was glad to report that the Sunday School was in a most flourishing condition. The attendances had been excellent during the year—some of the classes gained 100 per cent. marks for some quarters of the year. The Young People's Society had a successful season—the enthusiasm of the members is undiminished at the end of this, its eighth season. The Right Hon. John M. Andrews in the course of his remarks said he was glad to note the healthy prospects of the Church. Although there was a deficit in the Church funds for the year, it was due to the failure of some investments and to the unusually heavy expenditure by way of repairs to the School, Manse, and Gate-houses. He felt gratified at the good spirit and friendliness that prevailed amongst them—and this, he declared argued well for the future of the congregation. Mrs. Hind very graciously made presentations of medals, books and certificates to a large number of the members of the League of Loyalty. At the close of the business Meeting, an interesting programme of music and recitations was given by the following :—Mrs. F. Johnston, Mrs. R. Johnston, Miss M. Orr, Miss Molly Ferguson, Master Ivan D. Davies. A humorous sketch entitled : "A Nice Quiet Chat," was performed by the Misses A. and E. De Wind, and Mrs. R. Johnston. A hearty vote of thanks to the artistes was proposed by the Chairman and carried with acclamation. Tea was provided by a generous member of the congregation who wishes to remain anonymous. Nevertheless we thank her sincerely once again for her exceeding kindness and constant sympathy and support. The singing of the National Anthem brought a successful meeting to a close.

Crumlin.—One of the most happy social gatherings was held on Friday evening, March 11th, in the Masonic Hall. The Ladies of the Committee had given much time and decorative skill to make the Hall attractive, and the well arranged tables profusely decorated with daffodils had a pleasing effect. The programme was given by the Choir of the Mountpottinger Unitarian Church, under the leadership of Mr. Shepherd, whose happy platform manner made everyone expectant of good things, and in this no one was disappointed. Not the least enjoyable of the items were the delightful musical monologues contributed by Mr. Shepherd himself and the one en-

titled "Apple Dumplings," was particularly so. Miss M'Causland and Miss A. Beattie contributed solos which were enthusiastically received. Seldom have we heard a more attractive reciter than Miss E. Orr, and "The Old Story" was given with a new and refreshing emphasis. Mr. Greenaway on the Violin is certainly out of the ordinary. The Choir in several Part-songs sang with fine expression, good tone and balance, and excelled in "A Winter's Serenade." An interesting feature of the programme were the items given to Community Singing and we hope that next time we have a visit from Mr. Shepherd he will be more pleased with the effort of our local people in their singing the good old songs. The frequent encores asked, amply testified how much the artistes were appreciated. Some of them we had heard before in Mountpottinger, and we would like to assure the Mountpottinger people that if they desire to hear their choir at its very best they must follow them away from home. As one object of the social was to raise money towards defraying the cost of a new boiler. It is gratifying to know that there is a good balance for this purpose. The best thanks of the congregation are tendered to all who contributed to making the evening such a success.

Greyabbey.—The Annual meeting was held on Thursday, 24th March, the minister, Rev. W. H. Townley-Tilson, M.A., in the chair. After tea, which was provided by the ladies of the congregation, the usual reports were submitted, and these showed the Church to be in a satisfactory condition. Mr. W. Taylor and Mr. Jim Barnes were re-elected Secretary and Treasurer respectively, and Messrs. R. Warnock, W. Hughes, J. Robinson and M. Hagins were elected as members of Committee. Votes of thanks were passed, on the motion of Mr. Warnock, to the Secretary and Treasurer for their valuable services, and also to the Honorary Organist and Choir.

The business part of the meeting having been concluded, the choir sang Scotch and Irish melodies, Mrs. Tilson presiding at the piano. The following contributed items:—The Misses N. and L. Moreland, L. and M. Hamilton, M. Yeaman, A. Reid, M. Davidson, R. and C. Wright, J. Mawhinney, and Messrs. W. Hughes, J. Moreland, A. Patton, and J. Turney and D. Tilson (ventriloquism).

Mountpottinger.—In connection with this branch of the Women's League an evening of social character was spent in the

schoolroom on 28th March. Members from Rosemary Street, Comber and Stanhope Street were entertained. There was a good attendance. The programme arranged by Mrs. E. R. Jackson maintained a high standard throughout. The game of jumbled towns for which there was a small prize was followed by musical items. Misses Lewis, M'Kane and Beattie sang for us. Miss Ashworth at the piano. Miss Elva Orr was the Elocutionist and spoke her lines in a clear manner. Tea was served to the company under the supervision of Mrs. H. M'Callough. The second part of the entertainment was an amusing sketch, "Our At Home Day," performed by Miss Laura Bracken, Miss Joan Logan and Miss May Daniel, under the stage management of Mr. Norman Wooley. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held in the Schoolroom, on Wednesday, March 16th, when the Minister presided. The Committee's Report showed that the activities of the Church had been well maintained during the year and paid a high tribute to the work of the Church's branch of the Women's League for their work in connection with the Sale of Work by means of which and an American Tea they had raised over £100 for the Church funds. Mention was made of certain serious losses to the membership caused by the passing of old and faithful members which they were glad to state had been in part made good by new members coming along. The Choir Secretary's Report indicated that the musical side of our services had attained a higher degree than perhaps ever before. The Financial Statement showed that had it not been for certain unexpected expenditure due to very necessary repairs to the fabric and the much needed purchase of a new piano for the Sunday School the Bank overdraft which was slightly higher than twelve months before would have been appreciably less. The Church Committee was re-elected whilst Dr. R. J. Munn and Mr. E. R. Jackson were respectively again elected to the positions of Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer. Mr. L. Watters was appointed Hon. Treasurer for the Sunday School in place of the late Miss Maria Davidson who had held the office up to the time of her death. After the business had concluded tea was served and then under the conductorship of the organist, Mr. H. I. Shepherd, community singing which has been a feature on three recent Sunday evenings after the Service was heartily taken up. Mrs. E. R. Jackson contributed a couple

of recitations and the proceedings closed with the National Anthem.

Those who recall the splendid work done by Miss Margaret M'Vicker up to the time of her leaving Belfast for Australia some thirteen or more years ago will be interested to learn that she is at present on her way home for a holiday and intends to spend several weeks in Belfast and district when she hopes to renew old acquaintanceships. It is expected that she will arrive in Belfast towards the end of May.

Holywood.—The Presbytery of Antrim visited the First Presbyterian Congregation Holywood, on Thursday, April 7th. This visitation was in pursuance of the Presbytery's resolution to hold their Quarterly Meetings in turn in the churches under their charge instead of always meeting in Belfast as hitherto. The new plan has been adopted in response to a recommendation of the Forward Movement Committee and it is hoped thus to bring the scattered congregations into closer touch with the Presbytery and with one another and awaken and sustain a deeper interest in and zeal for our common work. The first trial of the new arrangement at Holywood was quite encouraging. The members of the Congregation gave their visitors a cordial and hospitable welcome and it was generally felt that the experiment had made a good beginning. The Presbytery met for business at four o'clock, and at 5-30 a substantial tea was served for them and others in the School-room, provided by the ladies of the congregation. At 7 o'clock a united service was held in the church. The Moderator (Rev. Edgar Lockett) conducted the devotions, and an earnest and appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. John Begg, of Larne. There was a good attendance and the congregational singing was very hearty. Tea was served again after the service, and thanks are due to the ladies of the congregation who not only got but gave the good fare provided for their guests.

Newry. On Wednesday, February 16th, the Annual Party for the Scholars of the Sunday School was held. After a substantial tea, which was much enjoyed by all, games were indulged in; a short programme was given by the children and the prizes for regular and punctual attendance and good conduct were presented by Mrs. C. Warnock. Mr. C. Warnock, the Superintendent then addressed the children and spoke encouraging words to them. He mentioned that there was not so many first prizes this year. That meant that the average attendance had not been so good

although the number of scholars on the books was larger. The Rev. G. J. Slipper also spoke. He said he would like to see every child receiving a prize, and was quite sure the money would be found to pay for them if they were earned. A happy time was then spent indulging in more games which were joined in by some older folk who were present. A Jumble Sale was held on Saturday, February 19th, which realised about £14. The proceeds of this sale are to go to a fund which is being raised for renewing the carpets, etc., of the Church. On Thursday, March 3rd, the Rev. H. J. Rossington, M.A., B.D., gave a lecture on the "Romance of Sicily" in the minor Town Hall. The attendance was excellent, the hall being quite full, and the lecture, which was intensely interesting, much enjoyed by all. The proceeds after the expenses are paid, are also to be devoted to the fund previously mentioned.

Obituary.

Mrs. Isabella Orr, Ballygowan.

We regret to record the death of Mrs. Isabella Orr, the beloved wife of Mr. Samuel Orr, Train View, Ballygowan, who died on March 10th, 1927. Mrs. Orr had been in failing health for a considerable period, but the end came quite suddenly owing to heart failure, though she had been suffering from a trying disease. The sympathy of a wide circle of friends was extended to Mr. Orr on the sudden termination of a long, harmonious and very happy married life. Mr. and Mrs. Orr reared a large family of sons and daughters. To Mr. Orr and the family we offer our respectful sympathy in their bereavement. The Orr family have been long connected with Ravara and Moneyrea to which places of worship they have been faithfully devoted. The large concourse of people who came from far and near to pay the last respects to the deceased indicated the esteem in which the family are held by friends and acquaintances. The funeral to Moneyrea Burying Ground took place on Saturday, March 12th. The Rev. Mr. M'Larnon and Rev. A. Whitford conducted the service in the house, and Rev. A. Whitford and Rev. D. J. Williams at the graveside. Mrs. Orr's presence will be greatly missed by all who received her genial welcome and partook of her generous hospitality.

D. J. W.

Mr. John Morrow, Deepark, Glenarm.

We regret to record the death, at an early hour on Wednesday morning, 23rd March, of a member of an old and respected family, in this neighbourhood. Mr. Morrow, who

was about 84 years of age, enjoyed remarkably good health during his long life. Until recent years he was regular in attendance at the weekly service in the Old Meeting House, and was a generous subscriber to its funds. Mr. Morrow always took a great interest in the affairs of our denomination, even going so far away as Newry to attend the annual meeting of "The Association of Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterians." Endowed with a fund of quiet humour, he was a genial companion, and endeared himself to both old and young by his bright, cheerful disposition. Friends from far and near came to pay their tribute of respect to the memory of a good man who will be greatly missed, by none more so than by the surviving brother and sisters to whom he was devotedly attached. The latter, ably assisted by the men in his employment, did all they could to brighten his last days upon earth. The funeral, which was largely attended by members of every denomination in the district, took place on Thursday afternoon, 24th March. Prior to the interment in the Old Meeting House Green, his minister conducted a short service in the house, also in the Meeting House, and at the graveside. We tender sincere sympathy to the relatives in their bereavement.

Mrs. Ledlie, Ballyhalbert, Co. Down.

Mrs. Ledlie of Ballyhalbert, Co. Down, the oldest member of the Ballyhemlin congregation, passed away on March 3rd., at the age of 93. Her husband pre-deceased her, some years ago, and there survive her a daughter and two sons, one of whom Mr. Andrew Ledlie is very well known in the locality in connection with the Orange Lodge, and is also an active worker in connection with the Ballyhemlin congregation. There was a large attendance at the interment which took place in the Ballyhalbert graveyard.

Mrs. Edward Curry, Ballyhalbert.

Mrs. Edward Curry, passed away rather suddenly on March 28th., at Ballyhalbert, aged 83. Her husband for many years was a fisherman, and her son fulfilled a term of service in the Royal Navy, and is now connected with a cross-channel boat. She was a faithful adherent of her place of worship though increasing infirmity for many years had prevented her attendance. A large company of friends and neighbours were present at the funeral.



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